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**ABSTRACT**

A method for optimizing communication in a network involving wanted and unwanted network messages wherein a set of filters are configured to accept all wanted network messages and minimize the acceptance of unwanted messages in accordance with a selection criteria. A first filter is configured to receive all wanted messages. The  
10 first filter includes a defined bit and an undefined bit. Each defined bit is either in a first state or in a second state. A second filter is set equal to the first filter. The first filter and the second filter compose a first set of filters. Potential configurations of the first set of filters are determined wherein each potential configuration is capable of accepting all wanted network messages. The potential configurations are optimized wherein the  
15 optimized configuration ensures acceptance of all wanted messages and reduces the amount of accepted unwanted messages. A desired configuration for the filter set is chosen from the potential configurations based upon a selection criteria.